

FIREMEN STEFLED AT THIS BLAZE.

Smoke Made Them Almost Unconscious, but They Soon Recovered.

MAN SEEN IN THE SHOP.

Policeman McDermott Met a Tenant and Lost Him in the Smoke.

TWO HUNDRED LIVES IN PERIL.

There Was a Panic in a Big Tenement House, but All Got Out in Safety—Baker Deschler Is Missing.

A fire in the five-story double tenement at No. 240 Stanton street came near ending the lives of half a dozen drowsy last night. Smoke overcame them while fighting the flames and the fainting men were removed to the open air and resuscitated. Captain Newham, of Engine 15, was one of those overcome.

The fire started in the basement, where Adolph Deschler conducted a bakery. He is missing. Policeman McDermott says that in searching for the fire in the basement he encountered a man whom he was compelled to leave on account of the smoke. The fire, which started at 7:30 o'clock, threw 200 men, women and children into a wild state of panic. D. Horn, who runs a grocery next to the bakery shop, says he heard some one in the shop yell "Fire!" and thinks it was Deschler, though the latter was supposed to have gone to the theatre with his wife, sister-in-law and three children. When Policeman McDermott reached the building flames and smoke were pouring from the bakery window.

Trooping to his hands and knees, the policeman crawled toward the rear of the shop. He had advanced a dozen feet or so when he encountered a man. Before the officer could grasp the man he darted through the smoke and disappeared. McDermott then returned to the street and rushed into the main entrance of the building. He mounted to the second story, warning tenants on either side of the hall until the smoke drove him back. By this time the firemen had arrived, and the house was soon filled with occupants and the fire was speedily subdued.

Then a hunt was made for Baker Deschler, but he could not be found. Grover Horn said that what he saw was Baker Deschler moving about in the shop, and later heard him cry fire. McDermott says he knows the baker well, but was unable to recognize him in the smoke. The damage is estimated at \$2,000. Deschler, it is said, was insured.

The fire had been extinguished by Richard Brennan, of No. 27 Sheriff street, an employee of the Consolidated Gas Company, who had been called to turn off the gas. So much of it had escaped that when he reached the cellar he felt overcome. He was discovered by the firemen ten minutes later. An ambulance was called from Bellevue Hospital, and after working over him for some time he was removed to the hospital and is expected to recover.

ROCKEFELLER'S HOBBY.

The Millionaire Is Employing an Army of Delighted Workmen in the Pocantico Hills.

John D. Rockefeller, the millionaire, finds pleasure in spending part of his great wealth in improving his country seat, "Boxwood," in the Pocantico Hills. Last year he expended at least \$100,000 in alterations to his main house and in landscaping. Fifteen feet of solid rock was cut off the top of the "Kykuit" Hill, and excavations made for the site of a \$1,000,000 country house, which, it was announced, he intended to build. The excavations alone cost \$200,000. Suddenly Mr. Rockefeller changed his mind and the whole excavated ground was filled in and sodded. A high observation tower which had been built down to make room for the site was rebuilt. Then Mr. Purdy, a Tarrytown architect, was employed to prepare plans for enlarging and beautifying the "Boxwood" residence. Alterations were begun for the fourth time last fall.

Now the old king is amusing himself by having another addition, costing \$100,000, and consisting of a kitchen, dining room and a number of bedrooms, built on the rear of his mansion. He also gave orders to build a new house, the "Kykuit" Hill, which will be moved to the eastward, a distance of perhaps 100 yards.

A driveway is being built from John Rockefeller's place to his brother William's home several miles away. It is the intention of both millionaires to live on their property in one magnificent park, far exceeding anything of its kind in this country.

LEVEES ARE IN DANGER.

Disquieting Reports of Rising Rivers Come from Many Points in the Mississippi Basin.

Natchez, Miss., March 26.—The river rose six inches in the last twenty-four hours, and is now above the danger line. Some fears are expressed that the levee will not be able to stand the strain.

The Democrat to-day says: "The planters on the inside of the levee between Black River and the Mississippi River are panic-stricken over the overflow outlook. Everybody in that locality is working night and day to strengthen the levees, but the outlook is dangerous."

Beardstown, Ill., March 26.—The high water is threatening the levee. The Illinois River is four miles wide here, and steadily rising. Many families living on the bottom lands have taken refuge on the bluff. The river is within eleven hundred feet of the disastrous flood of five years ago.

MARINE CADETS UNDER FIRE.

They Bravely Faced Broadside of Examination Questions on the St. Mary's.

The eighty and odd cadets were being trained for the merchant marine service on board the Schooner St. Mary's, when their latest uniforms yesterday and conversed only in orthodox salt water terms. It was the occasion of their inspection and a present on a coast survey.

The cadets, who were drawn up on the main deck, were inspected by August Montague, of the Board of Education. He expressed himself as delighted with their appearance.

The cadets then filed into the examination room, where Dr. Eliza examined them. They went through sets of all kinds of logarithms and algebraic equations, and the examiners were much pleased with the proficiency shown by the boys.

It was said yesterday that Lieutenant-Commander W. L. Fields, who is at present in command of the St. Mary's, will soon be relieved, and that he will be put in command of the Tietz, which is at present on a coast survey.

Washington, D. C., March 26.—The Secretary of the Navy has ordered that the St. Mary's be placed on duty at Washington, D. C., and that the Tietz be placed on duty at the St. Mary's.

There are twenty numbers on the programme, and the dancing will be the most marvellous feature of it all, unless one excepts the costumes, many of which are enough to turn grown women green with envy.

Few of these to be worn in the picturesque dances have cost less than \$100, and many of them have cost even more. Moreover, the family diamonds in the costly show will glitter with the family diamonds.

The carnival will open with the "Fishermen's Jubilee," in which twelve boys and girls dressed in quaint fisher costumes will execute a variety of dances. They will come upon the stage in a boat upon a miniature lake, one little boy representing the Lone Fisherman and playing lullaby.

In "The Fountain of Youth" ten little girls will appear in the guise of old women from various countries. In spite of their crutches and canes they will dance a little and then plunge into a huge fountain in the centre of the stage. A moment later they will emerge transformed into dazzling little fairies, each dressed to represent a particular flower. A ballet dance will follow, in which three little girls appear as preemies.

"The Bill Poster's Dream," the next number on the programme, is in reality a review of the leading operas and plays given in the city during the past winter. Several boys dressed as bill posters will come upon the stage and paste bills upon a fence. Then they will lie down and go to sleep. The fence will fall apart and a huge gilt frame will appear, a tableau scene from "The Geisha," with five little girls posing. After a moment they will step down out of the frame and give a short scene from the comedy. In quick succession will follow scenes from "Faust," "Carmen," "Lost, Strayed or Stolen," "El Capitán," "The Girl from Paris," "The Tyrolean," "In Gay New York," and other plays.

By this time there will be seventy-five children upon the stage.

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Among the children expected to distinguish themselves are Nellie and Maude Wallace, Genevieve Pratt, Celia and Viole Erb, Bern Marks, Rita Levy, Sadie S. Hans, Sadie M. Hans, Florence Ettenheimer, Sadie Steiner, Baldwin Pratt, Waldemar Jaeger, Jessie Salzer, Annie Lech, Sidney Untermyer, Louis Entenheimer, Blanche Margan, Lillian Rose, Milton Lech, Frank Jaeger, Sadie Salzer, Nettie Nussman, Leonard Levy, Florence Bush, May Cohen, Irene Bendheim, Florie Simon, Frances Adler, Viola Simons, Grace Freedman, Elvira Hoffman, Beatrice Levy, Lillian Greenberger, Irene Marks, Follie Jordan, Marian Babyn, Jules H. Hartman, Florence and Blanche Baumann, Baby Esberg, Baby Minzeshelmer, Irma Rosen, Jenny Wiener, Irma Coslin, Elsie Abowitch, Emily Baker, Lillian Rose, Addie Lowenthal, Alice Diebold, Sadie Vessell, Clarise S. Minnie Hirsch, and Joseph Beck.

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TWO GIRLS IN A BURGLARS' NEST.

Victims of an Alleged New Mother Mandelbaum.

\$3,000 WORTH OF PLUNDER

Search of Mrs. Donnelly's Rooms Yielded Startling Results.

A FATHER'S SAD DISCOVERY.

Andrew McGinley, Saloon Keeper, Met His Daughter Mamie at Police Headquarters After Her Sad Adventures.

Captain O'Brien believes he has captured a new Mother Mandelbaum. She is fair and forty, of lusty physique and commanding presence, and is known to her associates as Mrs. Donnelly.

The discovery and arrest of Mrs. Donnelly in her home at No. 58 Barrow street, involved the seizure of \$3,000 worth of property that was stored away in every nook and corner of her apartments. The police believe that when the owners of these goods have been found the victims of several recent burglaries will be made happy, and that evidence will be at hand to send away as dangerous and accomplished a gang as the Central Office men have landed in a long time.

But that is all. There are two girls involved in the story—girls young enough to claim the guardianship of Mr. Gerry and respectable enough to deserve a better fate than they have found hitherto. One of them has told her story, and if what she says is true, Mrs. Donnelly is something worse than a new Mother Mandelbaum. As a matter of fact, she has already been charged by Andrew McGinley, who keeps a saloon at No. 375 Greenwich street, with the abduction of his daughter, Mamie, who is sixteen years old. The same charge, in addition to one of burglary, has been entered against John Gortland, an ex-felon. Mrs. Donnelly might never have been arrested, and this story never been told if it had not been for Mamie's friend, Maud Wilson, who is also in the hands of the police, and whose story is well worth telling from the beginning. All the arrests and the consequent disclosures were a sequel to a trifling robbery at No. 200 West Houston street.

Save Three Robbers at Work.

Mrs. Mary Ryan, who lives at the address mentioned, reported at Police Headquarters that early on Thursday afternoon she had surprised three men in the act of rifling a bureau drawer in her bedroom. Two of them, on seeing her, dashed out of the apartments, slamming the door in the face of the third man, whose features Mrs. Ryan had a splendid opportunity of committing to memory before he, too, managed to get away. Mrs. Ryan's loss was confined to a few trinkets and \$2 in cash.

From Mrs. Ryan's graphic description of the three burglars, Detectives Haggerty and Millmore, who were assigned to the case, thought they recognized Frank Hazel, a former convict, whose habits and haunts were known to them. They found this man at No. 75 Caroline street, in company with John Gortland and Charles Walker, also ex-convicts, and arrested the trio.

Further inquiry brought to light the intelligence that Hazel, who, like his companions, is a man of many aliases, was the head of a domestic establishment such as sooties those hours "When the enterprising burglar isn't burgling." It was at No. 98 Barrow street, and there the detectives arrested Maud Wilson.

This girl, whose cheerful countenance betrayed stubborn restlessness, but whose wistful eyes showed a hunger for sympathy, was just in the right mood, as it happened, for the impulsive process of

Mulberry street. And the story she told, with many a toss of her head and many a little grimace of weariness and defiance, was as sad as one as could be recorded.

The girl's graphic story.

"Oh, I'm tired of it all!" she said, tapping the floor with her little foot. "I'm glad you've caught that fellow Hazel, and I'll tell you all I know about the gang. He and Gortland and Walker have been burgling a whole lot lately and selling the stuff to Mrs. Donnelly."

"What? You don't know Mrs. Donnelly? Well, you want to make her acquaintance right away. She lives in Barrow street, too—No. 58. Just a few doors from where you found me. She's a bad woman, she is. I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for her. And my name isn't Wilson, either. It's—but there! I won't tell you any more until you've caught Mrs. Donnelly."

Captain O'Brien was deeply interested in the case, by this time, and speedily assigned detectives to search Mrs. Donnelly's apartments. It so happened that the tenant was not at home when they arrived. That fact did not deter them, and when Mrs. Donnelly returned home she found strange men in her apartments, rummaging her pretty things topsy turvy, and disclosing enough plate, jewels, furs, slits and costly knickknacks to stock a small Broadway store.

Mrs. Donnelly exhibited much virtuous indignation at the spectacle, and even after she was made aware of the misdeed of her visitors—that is, if she did not guess the truth when she first caught them—she continued to exclaim against the treatment accorded her.

"I bought all these things at sales," she said, rubbing her eyes vigorously with a perfumed handkerchief. "and the way you're behaving is—infamous! Just a minute, the detectives were preparing to remove Mrs. Donnelly and her pretty things to Mulberry street, a good-looking girl about Maud Wilson's age made her appearance. As Mrs. Donnelly's home appeared to be her home, too, she was gathered in with her losses."

Meeting of the Two Girls.

"You here, Maud?" she exclaimed when, on arriving at the Central Office, she was designedly ushered into the room where Maud Wilson was waiting.

"Hello, Mamie!" cried Maud's laconic rejoinder, as the two girls kissed each other enthusiastically.

The new arrival told the detectives that her name was Mamie McGinley, and that her father kept the saloon at No. 375 Greenwich street. More than that she would not say. But while her father was being communicated with, Maud Wilson told her friend's story as well as her own.

"Mamie ran away from home to go to Mrs. Donnelly's," she said. "Gortland was always going there, and Mrs. Donnelly wanted Mamie to marry him. But Mamie didn't like him, so Mrs. Donnelly used to beat her and lock her in her room for hours at a time."

Concerning herself Maud had a still sadder tale to tell, and she told it with a mixture of bitterness and bravado that was the pity even of the unemotional Central Office police.

"My father is dead this long time," she said. "and I have nobody belonging to me. His name was Mulvey. Mrs. Donnelly got him out of her seven months ago. First of all, she persuaded me to marry a man, who called himself Wilson. But his real name was Meyer. His father keeps a grocery store on Hudson street, between King and Houston streets. She told me he was rich—so, rich—but she was lying. He was no use to me and I left him. Then Mrs. Donnelly introduced me to Hazel and that gang, and—oh, I'm so glad they're caught, and it's all over!"

Father and Daughter's Sad Meeting.

Andrew McGinley hastened to Headquarters as soon as he heard that his daughter had been found. What he and she said to one another is not known, but both were crying bitterly when they parted. McGinley made a charge of abduction against

the girl, and she, in turn, charged him with the abduction of his daughter.

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Maud Wilson....

BOY THIEF'S NERVE FAILED.

Emil, Had His Uncle Arrested for His Own Pilfering and Then Confessed.

Raphael Facio, a boss truckman, of No. 230 East Forty-seventh street, on last Wednesday moved, Mrs. Kate Leary from No. 238 East Fifty-second street to No. 300 on the same street. Facio's nephew, Emil Nicastro, sixteen years old, of No. 408 Schenck avenue, East New York, helped in the moving.

After Mrs. Leary's furniture had been moved she missed two gold watches and a silver chain from a bureau. She called Detectives Schrum and Kern, and they arrested Facio, his nephew and another man who had been employed by Facio.

Emil declared his uncle had stolen the things and that he had seen him hide them. This Facio denied. The boy showed the detectives where the missing property was hidden in a cellar at No. 252 East Fifty-second street. After producing the things the boy said:

"I was taken to his uncle and deliberately accused him of the theft. He persuaded me to tell him when he was taken to court yesterday morning, the detective induced him to admit that he had stolen the things himself and that his uncle had no knowledge of the theft. Magistrate Duvel held him in \$500 bail for trial. The men were discharged."

To a Bank's Rescue.

Paris, Tex., March 26.—Banks and capitalists in surrounding towns have made liberal offers of money to the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, which failed a few days ago, and it is believed that it will resume. Judge Scott, the assignee, says that he will have no statement to give out until an inventory of the assets and liabilities is completed.

THE SEA TRAGEDY.

for the first time fully presented, with signed statements by principals in the case, on both sides of the question. With photographs reproduced in half-tone, that illustrate the situation. To-morrow, in THE SUNDAY JOURNAL.

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LITTLE TOMBOYS IN GERRY'S GRASP.

Superintendent Stocking Arrests Two Girls for Playing Tag.

CALLS IT "DISORDERLY."

Lillian Lasserre, 17 Years Old, Left for the Night Weeping in a Police Cell.

HER PLAYMATE TAKEN AWAY.

Etelka Michaela, Who Is Only Sixteen, Charged with Vagrancy and Removed to the Society's Premises.

Two very fearful and frightened girls were escorted to the West Thirtieth Street Police Station last night by Superintendent Stocking of the Gerry society. They had been playing tag near the corner of Broadway and Twenty-eighth street, and Stocking, who has been taught by his superior officer, Mr. Gerry, to disapprove of such diversions, had gathered them in.

"I want these girls to be locked up," he said to the sergeant.

"What is the charge?" asked the latter, looking in astonishment at the tear-stained faces of the girls, who looked as if they had just stepped out of a schoolroom after a reprimand from the teacher.

"Er—ahem! They were laughing, and shouting and running about and carrying on like that. That's disorderly conduct, isn't it?"

Not Sure About the Charge.

The sergeant wasn't sure, and showed it by his manner, while Mr. Stocking fell to questioning the two girls about their ages, homes and parents. Both answered his questions without hesitation, except in so far as their names were an impediment, and it should be said here that the account they gave of themselves was altogether correct.

One of the girls is Lillian Lasserre, the daughter of a tailor, who carries on business at No. 1422 Broadway. The other is Etelka Michaela, who is staying with friends at No. 200 West Forty-first street, while her parents, who are in the theatrical business, are away on the road. Her mother is in the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera Company, and her father is with Etelka Wilson. She declared that she attended school every day.

Not in the Gerry Limit.

As to the ages of Stocking's captives, the case of Lillian Lasserre proved a bitter disappointment to him, for she declared that she was seventeen, and hence emancipated from the attentions of Mr. Gerry's society. But he insisted that she be locked up on the ground that playing tag and running about were disorders.

Etelka Michaela said she was sixteen, and he carried her off in triumph to the society's rooms, after instructing the sergeant to return with the other girl.

Lillian Lasserre looked up in a call, cried her eyes out and sobbed out her father's name in the intervals when her lamentations were sufficiently articulate to be understood. It seemed tolerably certain that the girl would be hysterical with shame, grief and terror before the night was out.

WANT POTTER TO ARBITRATE.

Strike on the New Columbia College Buildings Will Now Be Settled.

A settlement of the general strike ordered by the Board of Walking Delegates on the new Columbia College buildings is at last in sight. The Board, after a discussion lasting two hours yesterday afternoon, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the secretary of this body notify Bishop Potter that this Board is in favor of arbitration for the settlement of all differences in the building trade, particularly in the present difficulty between the steam fitters and plumbers with regard to thermometer.